

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) in San Juan County, Wash.—A typical specimen, an adult male, was taken Oct. 15, 1907, on Oreas Island, in San Juan County, Wash., one of the islands of the San Juan group in Puget Sound. It was brought me and the skin was forwarded to Washington, D. C., for further identification, and pronounced as above.—S. F. RATHBUN, *Seattle, Wash.*

Numbers of the Meadowlark still Increasing in Maine.—In this part of Maine, at least, there continues to be an increase in the numbers of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). On Oct. 12, 1910, I found near Winnock's Neck, Scarborough, many more Meadowlarks than I had ever seen in one day before. Flock after flock was flushed, as I walked over the marshes, and there could not have been less than two hundred birds. This is a remarkable number in the case of a species which was uncommon a few years ago and was once a rarity.¹

About fifty Meadowlarks remained near Pine Point railroad station until late in November, 1910; but only about twenty passed the entire winter of 1910–1911 near here,—fewer than stayed through the previous winter.²—F. S. WALKER, *Pine Point, Maine.*

The English Sparrow at Tucson, Arizona.—The popular side of bird life is to anathematize the so-called English Sparrow. If it has a known virtue it is kept sedulously in the background, but inasmuch as the complaint is general it is barely possible that they are entitled to the total sum of badness heaped against them, but the rule is rare that has no exception. The English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) was first noticed in Tucson about seven or eight years ago. But where they came from, and how they came the writer does not know, but he does know that they did not come in from the west. They breed continuously from early spring to late midsummer. March 23 the writer saw young birds as large as their parents and to the writer's knowledge they are still (July 12) breeding. Nest-making appears to be going on much of the time, both male and females being engaged in the work, but the number of times they breed the writer has no means of knowing. One curious phase of the business is their scarcity in winter. In summer they are so numerous as to be seldom out of sight, but in the winter a drive over the town will not discover a half dozen. In Tucson it rarely snows, but if such thing should happen it instantly melts on touching the ground. Occasionally when a cold wind blows from the mountains freezing point will be reached, but seldom more. Cold weather can therefore be no motive for their scarcity. It is possible they scatter over the desert, but I am much in the country and do not often see them. April 16 last, the writer saw one, a male, at Oracle, a small town in the western foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains,

¹ Norton, Auk, XXVI, pp. 307, 308.

² Auk, XXVII, p. 341.